Freedom fighters pension

1942. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of Freedom fighters pension are pending with Government for over three years, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of cases of pension from Tamil Nadu are pending;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no proper communication to the applicants from the Ministry causing delay; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to clear these cases on a war footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No case, complete in all respects and eligible for Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension, duly verified and recommended by the State Government, is pending.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Dialogue with NSCN(K)

1943. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are holding a dialogue with NSCN(K);

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) In a Press release issued on April 8, 2000, the NSCN (K) has offered to have formal Cease Fire with Government of India. State Government of Nagaland have also suggested that a Cease Fire agreement should be signed with the NSCN(K).

There has been no dialogue between the Government of India and the NSCN(K)so far.

Assurance to J and K on autonomy

† l944. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir for initiating talks following the adoption of resolution regarding autonomy by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly;

(b) if so, whether any positive assurance was given on the issue of autonomy by him and die Hon'ble Prime Minister to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir before the adoption of the said resolution;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government are contemplating to take any firm decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Government is committed to continuing its endeavour to evolve a broad consensus on the implementation of steps for wide ranging devolution of powers to the States that leads to efficiency in administration, acceleration in development and fullest realization of the creative potential of all sections of our people. Keeping this in mind, the Chief Minister, J and K had called on the Prime Minister on 17.7.2000. It was mutually agreed that Government of India and Government of Jammu and Kashmir will be in touch with each other on the subject of devolution of powers to the State. Details and modalities of such devolution were however not discussed in the said meeting.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.